

1                   Claims

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3                 1. In a computer system having; a file system that controls reads and  
4                 writes to a set of disks, a RAID subsystem providing redundancy among groups of said  
5                 disks, and wherein said file system or said RAID subsystem is responsive to inactivity of  
6                 one or more disks to reconstruct data from those inactive disks; a method, including  
7                         identifying one or more disks to be made temporarily inactive;  
8                         responding, by said file system, to said identification by marking said  
9                 identified disks read-only; and  
10                         indicating when said inactive disks are made active again.

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16                 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying includes a systems  
17                 operator or the system itself determining that one or more disks are to be made temporar-  
18                 ily inactive.

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20                 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said marking includes recording in  
21                 one of a set of off-line markers that said disk is read only.

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23                 4. The method of claim 3, wherein one each of said off-line markers is  
24                 associated with a disk in said RAID subsystem.



1                   an instruction for responding, by said file system, to said identifica-  
2                   tion by marking said identified disks read-only; and  
3                   an instruction for indicating when said inactive disks are made active  
4                   again.

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6                 10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said instruction for identifying in-  
7                 cludes an instruction initiated by a systems operator or the system itself for determining  
8                 that one or more disks are to be made temporarily inactive.

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11                 11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said marking includes an instruc-  
12                 tion for recording in one of a set of off-line markers that said disk is read only.

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14                 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein one each of said off-line markers  
15                 is associated with a disk in said RAID subsystem.

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17                 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said set of off-line markers in-  
18                 cludes a set of binary addresses.

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20                 14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said instruction for indicating in-  
21                 cludes an instruction initiated by a systems operator or the system itself for determining  
22                 that one or more inactivated disks should be reactivated.

1           15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said instruction for indicating  
2 further includes an instruction for identifying the disk or disks to the system that should  
3 be reactivated.

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5           16. The method of claim 15, wherein the off-line marker bit associated  
6 with said disk is cleared allowing said disk to be active and enabled for read/write without  
7 reconstruction of data within said RAID subsystem.

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9           17. A processor readable medium said medium encoded with data in a  
10 data structure including a set of binary addresses wherein each one of said binary ad-  
11 dresses is linked to a set of disks in a RAID subsystem.  
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